

Application No. 10/693,087
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A cartridge for a waste disposal device, comprising:
 - a casing defining a cavity;
 - a length of flexible tubing arranged substantially in said cavity and having a front end portion situated outside of said cavity and a rear end portion arranged in said cavity;
 - an annular cover connected to said casing to substantially cover said cavity and arranged such that a ring-shaped opening is defined between said cover and said casing for passage of said tubing therethrough; and
 - first closing means arranged in connection with said front end portion of said tubing for pre-forming a closure at said front end portion of said tubing outside of said cavity during manufacture of the cartridge and prior to insertion of the cartridge into the waste disposal device and waste into said tubing and in order to create a waste receiver without tying of said front end portion of said tubing such that said tubing is capable of receiving waste only after formation of said closure by said first closing means.

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2. (Previously Presented) The cartridge of claim 1, wherein said first closing means comprises a metal clip or clasp attached to said front end portion of said tubing.

3. (Previously Presented) The cartridge of claim 1, wherein said first closing means comprises a heat seal at said front end portion of said tubing.

4. (Previously Presented) The cartridge of claim 1, wherein said first closing means comprises stitches such that said front end portion of said tubing is sewn closed.

5. (Original) The cartridge of claim 1, wherein said casing includes opposed substantially cylindrical inner and outer walls and an annular lower wall extending between said inner and outer walls, said ring-shaped opening being defined between an inner edge of said cover and said inner wall.

6. (Original) The cartridge of claim 5, wherein said casing further includes a flange extending outward from said outer wall and attached to a lower surface of said cover.

7. (Previously Presented) The cartridge of claim 1, wherein said cover is detachably connected to said casing to

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enable insertion of a replacement length of tubing into said cavity.

8. (Previously Presented) The cartridge of claim 1, further comprising second closing means arranged in connection with said casing and said cover for closing and sealing said rear end portion of said tubing.

9. (Original) The cartridge of claim 8, wherein said second closing means comprises score lines arranged on said cover to enable said cover to be folded about said score lines, attachment means arranged on said cover for attaching folded parts of said cover to one another, and slits arranged through said casing in alignment with said score lines.

10. (Original) The cartridge of claim 9, wherein said attachment means comprises hook and loop fasteners.

11. (Original) The cartridge of claim 9, wherein said attachment means comprises a tie and clasp stamped into said cover.

12. (Currently Amended) The cartridge of claim 1, wherein said cover is made of ~~fibrous material~~ cardboard.

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13. (Original) The cartridge of claim 1, wherein said cartridge includes at least one flange adapted to be received between tabs formed on the waste disposal device to hold the cartridge in position relative to the waste disposal device.

14. (Currently Amended) A cartridge for a waste disposal device, comprising:

a casing defining a cavity;

a length of flexible tubing arranged substantially in said cavity and having a front end portion situated outside of said cavity and a rear end portion arranged in said cavity;

an annular cover connected to said casing to substantially cover said cavity and arranged such that a ring-shaped opening is defined between said cover and said casing for passage of said tubing therethrough; and

first closing means arranged in connection with said casing and said cover for closing and sealing said rear end portion of said tubing, said first closing means comprising a substantially linear weakened portion formed on said cover and which separates approximately equal parts of said cover such that a part of said cover on one side of said weakened portion is foldable about said weakened portion onto another part of said cover on an opposite side of said weakened portion.

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15. (Previously Presented) The cartridge of claim 14, wherein said weakened portion comprises score lines, said first closing means further comprising attachment means arranged on said cover for attaching folded parts of said cover to one another, and slits arranged through said casing in alignment with said score lines.

16. (Original) The cartridge of claim 15, wherein said attachment means comprises hook and loop fasteners.

17. (Original) The cartridge of claim 15, wherein said attachment means comprises a tie and clasp stamped into said cover.

18. (Currently Amended) The cartridge of claim 15, wherein said casing includes opposed substantially cylindrical inner and outer walls and an annular lower wall extending between said inner and outer walls, said ring-shaped opening being defined between an inner edge of said cover and said inner wall, said first closing means further comprising score lines being arranged through said inner, outer and lower walls of said casing such that said casing breaks along said score lines when the part of said cover on one side of said weakened portion is folded about

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said weakened portion onto the other part of said cover on the opposite side of said weakened portion.

19. (Previously Presented) A cartridge for a waste disposal device, comprising:

a casing defining a cavity;

a length of flexible tubing arranged substantially in said cavity; and

an annular cover connected to said casing to substantially cover said cavity and arranged such that a ring-shaped opening is defined between said cover and said casing for passage of said tubing therethrough;

said casing being made of a plastic material and said cover being made of cardboard.

20. (Previously Presented) The cartridge of claim 1, wherein said cover is made of cardboard.

21. (Previously Presented) The cartridge of claim 8, wherein said second closing means comprises a weakened portion formed on said cover such that a part of said cover on one side of said weakened portion is foldable about said weakened portion onto another part of said cover on an opposite side of said weakened portion.

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22. (Currently Amended) A cartridge for a waste disposal device, comprising:

a casing defining a cavity;

a length of flexible tubing arranged substantially in said cavity and having a front end portion situated outside of said cavity and a rear end portion arranged in said cavity;

an annular cover connected to said casing to substantially cover said cavity and arranged such that a ring-shaped opening is defined between said cover and said casing for passage of said tubing therethrough; and

first closing means arranged in connection with said front end portion of said tubing for pre-forming a closure at said front end portion of said tubing outside of said cavity during manufacture of the cartridge and prior to insertion of the cartridge into the waste disposal device and waste into said tubing and in order to create a waste receiver such that said tubing is capable of receiving waste only after formation of said closure by said first closing means,

said closing means being selected from the group consisting of a metal clip or clasp attached to said front end portion of said tubing, a heat seal at said front end portion of said tubing and stitches which sew said front end portion of said tubing closed.

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23. (Previously Presented) A cartridge for a waste disposal device, comprising:

a casing defining a cavity;

a length of flexible tubing contained in said cavity, said tubing having a front end and a rear end and defining a continuous elongate passage extending fully between said front end and said rear end, said tubing further including lines of depressions situated between said front end and said rear end and extending entirely across a circumference of said tubing to enable said tubing to be cleanly torn about each of said lines while forming open ends of said tubing on both sides of said line; and

an annular cover connected to said casing to substantially cover said cavity and arranged such that a ring-shaped opening is defined between said cover and said casing for passage of said tubing therethrough.

24. (Currently Amended) A cartridge for a waste disposal device, comprising:

a casing defining a cavity and including a substantially cylindrical outer wall and a flange extending outward from an upper edge of said outer wall;

a length of flexible tubing arranged substantially in said cavity; and

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an annular cover connected to said casing to substantially cover said cavity and arranged such that a ring-shaped opening is defined between said cover and said casing for passage of said tubing therethrough;

said cover being attached to said flange of said casing to enable such that said cover is able to at least partially separate from said casing to expose said cavity and enable insertion of a replacement length of tubing into said exposed cavity.

25. (Previously Presented) The cartridge of claim 24, further comprising attachment means for removably attaching said cover to said casing.

26. (Previously Presented) The cartridge of claim 24, wherein said cover is removably attached to said casing with hook and loop fasteners.

27. (Canceled)

28. (New) The cartridge of claim 24, wherein said cover is planar and extends beyond said outer wall of said casing, said cover being connected to said flange at a portion extending beyond said outer wall of said casing.

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29. (New) A method for forming a ready-to-use cartridge for a waste disposal device, comprising:

manufacturing the cartridge by:

providing a casing defining a cavity,

arranging a length of flexible tubing substantially in the cavity such that a front end portion of the tubing is situated outside of the cavity and a rear end portion of the tubing is in the cavity, and

connecting an annular cover to the casing to substantially cover the cavity and define a ring-shaped opening between the cover and the casing through which the tubing passes; and

during manufacture of the cartridge, pre-forming a closure at the front end portion of the tubing outside of the cavity such that upon insertion of the cartridge into a waste disposal device, a waste receiver has been pre-formed by the tubing without requiring tying of the front end portion of the tubing.